

Appendix E.

Sustainable Arlington Fact Sheet

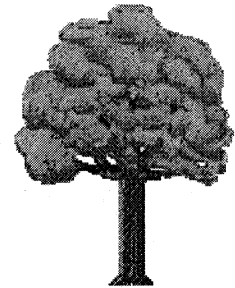
Sustainable Arlington Fact Sheet

Our Mission

To promote local action on environmental issues to make Arlington a healthy, environmentally sound place to live, work, and play.

Who Are We?

Sustainable Arlington was formed by a group of concerned citizens with varied professional backgrounds and strong motivation to create positive change in our town. Our initial focus has been on climate change, but our broader goals include all aspects of sustainability. Sustainable Arlington operates as a committee of Vision 2020's Environment Task Group. As a complement to our local initiatives, we also coordinate with regional groups working on local and global environmental issues.



What Have We Accomplished?

1. We encouraged the Selectmen to declare April 2000 as Earth Month, and in both 2000 and 2001 arranged a variety of Earth Month/Day events, including a series of articles in the *Arlington Advocate* on environmental topics, an edible wild plants guided walk through Great Meadows with a local expert, bird walks at Spy Pond and the Reservoir, and a bike tour to explore Arlington's open spaces.
2. We worked with Town government to facilitate Arlington's participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, which began with the hiring of an intern who conducted an inventory of town greenhouse gas emissions. Town officials have established a Climate Wise task force, which is active on many fronts including:
 - Energy efficient street and traffic lights: Traffic signals are about to be replaced by LEDs, which use 85% less energy; converting street lights is being researched.
 - Town vehicles: The DPW has a new no-idling policy; the Board of Health's new car will be a hybrid (gasoline/electric) Prius, which gets 2-3 times the mpg of most cars.
 - A Town-wide energy efficient purchasing policy is being drafted.
3. In March 2001 we put on an educational exhibit on climate change at the Robbins Library. In connection with it, we were able to arrange the replacement of dozens of lights in the Reading Room with energy-saving compact fluorescents donated by NStar. Now the Library is working on a project to replace all its lights, with projected savings of about \$8,500 per year in electricity costs (a 3-year payback period).
4. We are working with architects and the Permanent Town Building Committee to incorporate green building design concepts into schools that are being renovated or rebuilt in Arlington. These efforts will reduce energy use in our schools, save money, create a healthier indoor environment and provide a "real life" learning opportunity for the students.

What's Next?

Each month more people attend our meetings, bringing new skills, ideas, and resources to our group. This fall we decided to launch a series of project teams to advance initiatives in several key areas. These teams are starting to implement many great initiatives and are open to anyone interested in getting involved.

Project Team	Topic	Upcoming Initiatives
Sustainable Lifestyles	This team will focus on raising awareness and encouraging residents in Arlington to adopt environmentally sound practices and enhance their quality of life.	Regularly launch discussion groups on Voluntary Simplicity and Choices for Sustainable Living
Ecological Gardening and Landscaping	This team will help the town and its residents address the issue of sustainable gardening and landscaping, tree loss in Arlington, local species diversity, and pesticide use. Planning to create an Ecological Gardening Club in Arlington.	Public planting days
Greening Arlington's Schools	This team began work some time ago and has already influenced the school retrofit/rebuilding. Now, the plan is to bring in some outside expertise and resources to provide systematic support for a green building approach to the schools' renovation.	
Public Lighting Efficiency	This team is currently working with the town and NSTAR on installing energy efficient traffic signals and street lighting.	
Transportation	This team focuses on improving energy efficient transportation options for Arlingtonians and providing public education on transportation energy use.	
Green Power	This team focuses on finding ways for the town and its residents to purchase electricity from green power sources.	

We also have teams focused on publicity/outreach and on coordinating with other similar groups in the region, such as the Mass Climate Action Network.

How Can You Get Involved?

Sustainable Arlington meets once a month in the evening. Project teams hold additional meetings as needed. Our meetings are open to anyone interested in participating, so please join us! Call 781-643-5911 or send email to: Environment2020@aol.com